

REMARKS

This is responsive to an Official Action dated March 28, 2006. Claims 1-19 have been initially rejected, Claims 20-30 have been previously allowed, and Claims 31-59 have been previously withdrawn pursuant to a restriction requirement. Claims 1, 8, 9, 18, 19 and 20 are herein amended. Accordingly, Claims 1-30 are pending. The undersigned would like to thank Examiner Stevens for taking the time to discuss this Office Action on August 23, 2006.

In the Office Action, the Examiner initially rejected Claims 1-13 and 15-19 as being obvious under §103 given Kawarizadeh, U.S. Patent No. 5,903,222 in view of Fisher, U.S. Patent No. 5,557,263, but found Claim 14 allowable if amended to incorporate the subject matter of its base claims. The Examiner states that Kawarizadeh discloses a wetness monitoring system 10, 20, 40, comprising a sensor, conductors, absorbent material 18 extending between the conductors, a data collector comprising a compiling processor 92, electric circuit 14, 24, communication device 89, and power source (col. 9, lines 2-24), a control station having a receiver 89, control processor 82, and an associated memory containing a predetermined wetness value (col. 6, line 8 through col. 7, line 27), and that the sensor is to be used with a diaper worn by the individual ((Col. 3, lines 39-42), but does not disclose a data collector. The Examiner also states that Fisher teaches for example medical histories of patients may be stored in a database for retrieval to evaluate patient progress and efficiency of patient care. (Col. 9, lines 60-67).

Claim 1, as amended, requires a data collector having a radio frequency communication device. The invention pertains to a wireless wetness monitoring system such as that shown in Figures 1a, 1b and 2. As stated in the response to the prior Office Action, the data collector obtains and transmits "wetness measurement data" to a control station having a control processor with an associated memory containing a predetermined wetness value. The control processor

compares each of the wetness measurement data with the predetermined wetness value, and to determine if a wetness event has occurred when a predetermined number of wetness measurement data exceed the predetermined wetness value.

As discussed with Examiner Stevens, an advantage of the present wetness monitoring system is that actual wetness measurement data for both "damp" and "wet" conditions are sent to the control station. If a "damp" measurement is sent, but the dampness dries out in a short period of time, then the control station would not determine that a wetness event occurred and staff resources would not be wasted checking the dry individual. If the control station continues to receive "damp" measurements over a period of time or receives a "wet" measurement, then the control station would determine that a wetness event occurred and staff would be sent to check and change the individual. A control station nurse or supervisor can select a predetermined wetness value appropriate for a particular individual to help minimize staff time checking dry individuals. (Figures 13 and 14; Page 7, line 19 to page 8, line 2; Page 8, lines 6-7; Page 27, lines 20-23; Page 28, line 12 to page 29, line 4; Page 30, lines 3-15; and Page 32, lines 18-20).

As previously noted, Kawarizadeh discloses a wetness sensor 60 with a transmitter 78 such as the Model FA203S made by Inovonics Corporation. (Col. 12, line 50). Yet, the Model FA203S is a "Single Button" or on/off transmitter. Such a transmitter would not send wetness measurement data. Kawarizadeh also discloses that the predetermined value is associated with the sensor 60, not the control station. (Abstract, lines 4-10).

Fisher discloses that data accumulated in a nursing station 176 internal computer 178 may be transmitted through the RS-232 interface 180 to an external workstation computer 183. (Figure 20, Col. 9, lines 18-22 and 60-64). As discussed, an RS-232 interface is for hard wiring one computer to another. The "R232 Data Interface - A Tutorial on Data Interface and Cables"

Application No. 09/707,610
Amendment Dated August 25, 2006
Reply to Office Action of March 28, 2006

publication is available at "www.arcelect.com/rs232.htm." Thus, Fisher clearly does not pertain to a wireless wetness monitoring system using a radio frequency communication device to transmit wetness measurement data as required by Claim 1. Fisher also does not pertain to a data collector that transmits wetness measurement data to a control station. Nor does Fisher pertain to a control station having a predetermined wetness value that is compared to wetness measurement data to determine if a wetness event occurred.

Accordingly, Kawarizadeh and Fisher, either alone or in combination, clearly do not disclose, teach or suggest the wetness monitoring system of Claim 1, as amended. As Claims 2-19 depend from Claim 1, they are also patentable over Kawarizadeh and Fisher.

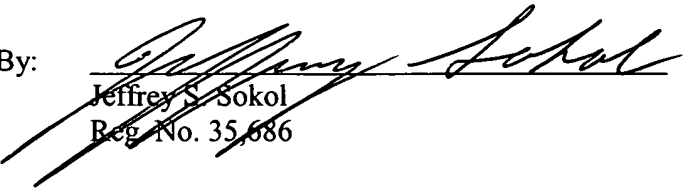
Claims 8 and 18 are amended to depend from Claims 6 and 17, respectively, so as to include antecedent basis for their terms. Claim 9 is amended to clarify that there are a number of wetness monitoring apparatus used for a number of individuals, and is not intended to narrow the scope of the claim. Claim 19 is amended to conform to Claim 1, as herein amended. Claim 20 is amended to correct a typographical error and does not narrow the scope of the claim.

Reconsideration of Claims 1, as amended, and Claims 2-19, and allowance thereof along with previously allowed Claims 20-30 are respectfully requested. The Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned should this facilitate examination and allowance of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: August 25, 2006

By:


Jeffrey S. Sokol
Reg. No. 35,686

COOK & FRANKE S.C.
660 East Mason Street
Milwaukee, WI 53202
(414) 271-5900
Attorney Docket No.: 5764-0034